

Application Ser. No. 09/939,865

Amendment C

Claims:

1. (currently amended "C") Handheld apparatus for propelling particulate matter, the apparatus comprising:

a mixing chamber having a sidewall, a gas receiving end wall comprising a gas receiving port at a first end of the mixing chamber and a discharge end wall at an opposite end of the mixing chamber and designed to be handheld;

a gas delivery conduit, whereby the gas delivery conduit would be coupled to the gas receiving end wall and disposed within the chamber and extend into the mixing chamber;

a discharge port in the discharge end wall;

a discharge conduit disposed within the chamber and extending in fluid communication from the discharge port towards the gas receiving port and whereby the gas delivery conduit and the discharge conduit overlap; and

an elongated particle-directing tube disposed external to the chamber, a proximal end of the particle-directing tube in fluid communication with the discharge port; and wherein:

at least one of the gas receiving end wall and the discharge end wall abuts and is contiguous with the sidewall of the chamber.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the size and shape of the mixing chamber resembles that of a syringe.

3. (previously cancelled "B") The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises an elongated particle directing tube, the elongated particle-directing tube being in fluid communication with the discharge conduit.

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4. (previously amended "B") The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the elongated particle directing tube is a continuation of the discharge conduit.

5. (previously amended "B") The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the elongated particle directing tube is at least one of capable of being bent and pre-bent.

6. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises a color-coding to identify the particulate matter.

7. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, the apparatus further comprising at least one of a gas delivery port cap and a discharge end cap.

8. (original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the apparatus further comprising a color-coding to identify the particulate matter.

9. (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, the apparatus further comprising an attachment area located proximate the gas receiving port to the apparatus, whereby the attachment area provides a means to couple the apparatus to an air supply source.

10. (currently amended "C") Handheld apparatus for propelling particulate matter, the apparatus comprising:

a mixing chamber having a sidewall, a gas receiving end wall comprising a gas receiving port at a first end of the mixing chamber and a discharge end wall at an opposite end of the mixing chamber, a coupling member for coupling the mixing chamber to a gas supply source tube, and designed to be handheld;

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a gas delivery conduit, whereby the gas delivery conduit is coupled to the gas receiving end wall and disposed within the chamber and extends into the mixing chamber;

a discharge port in the discharge end wall;

a discharge conduit disposed within the chamber and extending in fluid communication from the discharge port towards the gas receiving port and whereby the gas delivery conduit and the discharge conduit overlap; and

an elongated particle-directing tube disposed external to the chamber, a proximal end of the particle-directing tube in fluid communication with the discharge port-; and wherein:

at least one of the gas receiving end wall and the discharge end wall abuts and is contiguous with the sidewall of the chamber.

11. (previously amended "A") The apparatus of Claim 10, whereby the gas delivery port is positioned off-center with respects to the center of the mixing chamber.

12. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the size and shape of the mixing chamber resembles that of a syringe.

13. (previously cancelled "B") The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the apparatus further comprises an elongated particle directing tube, the elongated particle-directing tube being in fluid communication with the discharge conduit.

14. (previously amended "B") The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the elongated particle directing tube is a continuation of the discharge conduit.

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15. (previously amended "B") The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the elongated particle directing tube is at least one of capable of being bent and pre-bent.

16. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the apparatus further comprises a color-coding to identify the particulate matter.

17. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, the apparatus further comprising at least one of a gas delivery port cap and a discharge end cap.

18. (original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the apparatus further comprising a color-coding to identify the particulate matter.

19. (original) The apparatus of Claim 12, the apparatus further comprising an attachment area located proximate the gas receiving port to the apparatus, whereby the attachment area provides a means to couple the apparatus to an air supply source.

20. (currently amended "C") Handheld apparatus for propelling particulate matter, the apparatus comprising:

- a mixing chamber having a sidewall, a gas receiving port at a first end of the chamber and a discharge end wall at an opposite end of the chamber and designed to be handheld;

- a discharge port in the discharge end wall;

- a discharge conduit disposed within the chamber and extending in fluid communication from the discharge port towards the gas receiving port;

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an elongated particle-directing tube disposed external to the chamber, a proximal end of the particle-directing tube in fluid communication with the discharge port; and

a non-removable, self sealing mechanism contiguous to the sidewall of the chamber, wherein the self sealing mechanism opens to allow a gas stream to flow into the handheld mixing chamber when exposed to a gas stream, and the self sealing mechanism seals when not exposed to the gas stream, whereby the self sealing mechanism is located between the gas receiving port and the mixing chamber.

21. (original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the self-sealing mechanism is of a molded flexible material.

22. (original) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the self-sealing mechanism is of a hemispherical geometry.

23. (original) The apparatus of Claim 22, the self-sealing mechanism further comprising at least one slit.

24. (original) The apparatus of Claim 21, the self-sealing mechanism further comprising at least one slit.

25. (original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the size and shape of the mixing chamber resembles that of a syringe.

26. (previously cancelled "B") The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises an elongated particle directing tube, the elongated particle-directing tube being in fluid communication with the discharge conduit.

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27. (previously amended "B") The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the elongated particle directing tube is a continuation of the discharge conduit.

28. (previously amended "B") The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the elongated particle directing tube is at least one of capable of being bent and pre-bent.

29. (currently amended "C") Handheld apparatus for propelling particulate matter, the apparatus comprising:

a mixing chamber having a sidewall, a gas receiving end wall comprising a gas receiving port at a first end of the mixing chamber and a discharge end wall at an opposite end of the mixing chamber and designed to be handheld;

a gas delivery conduit, whereby the gas delivery conduit is coupled to the gas receiving end wall and disposed within the chamber and extends into the mixing chamber;

a discharge port in the discharge end wall;

a discharge conduit disposed within the chamber and extending in fluid communication from the discharge port towards the gas receiving port and whereby the gas delivery conduit and the discharge conduit overlap;

an elongated particle-directing tube disposed external to the chamber, a proximal end of the particle-directing tube in fluid communication with the discharge port;

particulate matter; ~~and~~

a means to temporarily containing particulate matter within the mixing chamber-; and wherein:

at least one of the gas receiving end wall and the discharge end wall abuts and is contiguous with the sidewall of the chamber.

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30. (previously amended "A") The apparatus of Claim 29, whereby the gas delivery port is positioned off-center with respects to the center of the mixing chamber.

31. (original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the size and shape of the mixing chamber resembles that of a syringe.

32. (previously cancelled "B") The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the apparatus further comprises an elongated particle directing tube, the elongated particle-directing tube being in fluid communication with the discharge conduit.

33. (previously amended "B") The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the elongated particle directing tube is a continuation of the discharge conduit.

34. (previously amended "B") The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the elongated particle directing tube is at least one of capable of being bent and pre-bent.

35. (original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the apparatus further comprises a color-coding to identify the particulate matter.

36. (original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the means for temporarily containing the particulate matter is of at least one of a gas delivery port cap and a discharge end cap.

37. (original) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the apparatus further comprising a color-coding to identify the particulate matter.

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38. (original) The apparatus of Claim 31, the apparatus further comprising an attachment area located proximate the gas receiving port to the apparatus, whereby the attachment area provides a means to couple the apparatus to an air supply source.

39. (previously added "B") The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the mixing chamber is sufficiently sealed making the apparatus generally disposable .

40. (previously added "B") The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein